

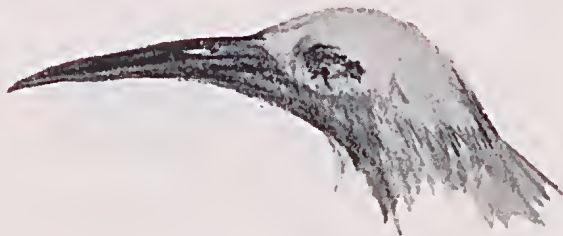
that the area is the type locality of one of our rarest jewel beetles. In September 1932 when collecting insects on the bushes there I was astonished to see a strange jewel beetle settle on a shrub which the Government Botanist (Mr. C. A. Gardner) kindly identified as *Myoporum insulare* R. Br. When specimens were shown to that well-known collector, Horace W. Brown, he stated that the beetle was new to him and subsequently forwarded specimens to H. J. Carter, who gave it the name *Stigmodera (Castiarina) magnetica*, the specific name being a misnomer owing to the transposition of the label with that of another specimen from Mount Magnet forwarded to him at the same time.

It would seem that the range of the species was more or less confined to a limited area. The original site has been denuded of the plant and elsewhere only one locality, near North Street, Swanbourne, has yielded specimens of the beetle. Searches at Wembley, where the *Myoporum* also occurs, have failed to yield specimens. The beetle measures about five-eighths of an inch in length by a quarter of an inch (the female), and is a beautiful insect when seen on the wing. The head, thorax and under-surface are a coppery bronze and so also is the abdomen above. The elytra are buff with blackish metallic markings which may be described as two wide irregular cross-bars on the apical half and a narrow edging along the suture. There are also variable markings at the base and two small spots near the lateral margins which are consistently present.

—L. GLAUERT, W.A. Museum, Perth

**Noddy Terns at Dunsborough.**—On June 13 and 14 this little settlement was visited by a terrific gale, with occasional rain. The sea, which normally is very calm here, was roaring in with great waves, and during its worst period we found congregated on the beach thousands of birds of a type we do not see here. After flying up and down all day they settled by evening upon the small trees and bushes that grow almost to the water's edge. One could go to them and pick them off the branches, they were so exhausted. Some of the birds tried to fish but without success. There were two types, one with almost white head, and the other grey all over with no difference on the head. When the storm abated on June 15 many of them flew away, but more than two hundred lay dead.

—MARGARET JOHNSON, Dunsborough Beach, via Busselton



Field Sketch by Mrs. Margaret Johnson.

[Mrs. Johnson enclosed a sketch of one of the birds, which is here reproduced, and which represents with great fidelity a Lesser Noddy (*Anous tenuirostris*). The other bird, uniformly dark, was evidently an immature Common Noddy (*Anous stolidus*). On July 19 it was reported that a flock estimated to contain about one hundred birds had taken shelter on the jetty at Busselton. Next day Major H. M. Whittell, of Bridgetown, visited Busselton and found several dead Lesser Noddies on the beach by the jetty. The birds examined were immature, and among them was one immature Common Noddy. The occurrence of these terns in such large numbers in Geographe Bay at this time of the year is of considerable ornithological interest. Lesser Noddies are not infrequently found on South-west beaches after winter storms but never previously had a visitation of this magnitude been reported. The presence of the Common Noddies is of even greater significance. These are migratory terns, nesting in large numbers on the Abrolhos in the spring and summer, but their whereabouts in the winter months were a mystery and no specimens had been collected anywhere away from the breeding grounds in the non-nesting period. The observations of Mrs. Johnson and the specimen collected by Major Whittell provide evidence that some at least of the immature Common Noddies frequent the seas off the South-west coast

—EDITOR.]

**The Tasmanian Mutton-bird in Western Australia.**—On November 5, 1946, I found washed up on the beach five miles west of Starvation Boat Harbour, near Hopetoun, the remains of a Tasmanian Mutton-bird or Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*)—the first record of the species from Western Australian seas. On April 23, 1948, I was at Esperance and was exceedingly interested to find three specimens of the species washed ashore on the town beach. I thereupon searched the beach from the rocks at Dempster Head to the third jetty near Bandy Creek but found no more. No other sea-birds were washed up, not even the local-nesting *Puffinus carneipes*. There were extensive beds of sea-grass and about 30 or 40 specimens of the large sea-hare (*Aplysia gigantea*), one of the biggest measuring 22 inches in total length. Unusually prolonged easterly winds had been blowing during the week.

All of the three mutton-birds were immature females, with small flat ovaries and straight oviducts. In two of the birds the outer primaries were missing. They were very fat and in the gizzard were small squid beaks and small quartz pebbles, with a greenish substance in the proventriculus. The nearest nesting locality is St. Francis Island, off Ceduna, at the eastern side of the Great Australian Bight and over 700 miles away in a direct line. So the birds had been foraging a long way west, and this at a time when the birds were on the eve of their migration to the north Pacific.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.